

March 31, 2016

PMA-290 program office welcomes new commander



160330-N-OY799-237 NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER, Md. (March 30, 2016) -- Rear Adm. CJ Jaynes, middle, Program Executive Officer for Air Anti-Submarine Warfare, Assault and Special Mission Programs, observes as Capt. Tony Rossi, left, relieves Capt. Scott Dillon as the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft Program Office (PMA) 290 commanding officer during the change of command ceremony held at Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 20 hangar. Capt. Tony Rossi relieved Capt. Scott Dillon as the program manager for Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft commanding officer. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kenneth Abbate/Released)

Patuxent River, Md. – The Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft Program Office (PMA-290) bid farewell to Capt. Scott Dillon, who relinquished command to Capt. Tony Rossi during a ceremony March 30 in Naval Air Station Patuxent River's Air Test and Evaluation Squadron TWO ZERO (VX) 20 hangar.

Rear Adm. CJ Jaynes, program executive officer for air anti-submarine warfare, assault and special mission programs (PEO(A)) opened the ceremony, recognizing Dillon for key achievements during his tenure, most notably fielding the P-8A Poseidon.

Jaynes acknowledged the strengths Rossi brings to the P-8A team. "He's certainly no stranger to the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force, having been the deputy program manager for the P-8A Poseidon program for the past three years. Additionally, he has the distinction of serving in three of the Navy's finest squadrons that fly our PMA-290

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aircraft: VP-9, VX-20, and VQ-1,” Jaynes said. “And if that list isn’t notable enough, he was also the commanding officer for VPU-2. A very rare set of skills to bring to this program team.”

Prior to joining PMA-290, Rossi served as NAVAIR’s Persistent Maritime Unmanned Aircraft Systems Program Office (PMA-262) MQ-4C Triton development integrated program team lead, where he led the Triton program through two schedule risk assessments, two estimate at completion budget updates, a program over target baseline/over target schedule, all while executing the transition from lab to ground to flight test.

During the ceremony, Rossi not only thanked his family and friends, but his former program teammates and other colleagues. He also expressed his gratitude for his mentors.

“I’ve made a lot of non-traditional choices in my career, which when looking back seem to have been grooming for this exact job. I only seem to have survived those choices due to a long list of leaders and mentors who saw potential and gave me a chance,” Rossi said. “A few of them are here but I’d like to recognize them all. Thanks to Rear Admirals Jaynes and Gahagan, Captains Brewer, Lally, Carsley, Wright, Ligon, Reining, Hoke, and Dillon. Without all of them, I have no doubt I’d be sitting in the audience today instead of up here on the stage.”

Dillon, whose next assignment will be NAVAIR director of Integrated Warfighting Capabilities, reflected on fond memories, accomplishments, and challenges overcome during his past four years as the program manager, and thanked his family, team, PEO(A) staff, and colleagues for their support.

“My somewhat daunting problem was that my four years as PMA-290 have been such a rich and rewarding tour, working with such a remarkable team, and originally made possible by years of support from such wonderful friends, family members, and Navy mentors that it is almost impossible to do justice to everyone who made today possible,” Dillon said.

“I am exceedingly thankful for the support, friendship, occasional commiseration, but mostly collaboration that I enjoyed with fellow program managers, Marine Corps aviation, [Naval Air Station Patuxent River] base, Naval Air Warfare Center, and NAVAIR commanders and competency leads, PEO Tactical, PEO Unmanned and Weapons, and 1.0 staffs and chiefs of staff, Office of Secretary of Defense, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Office of Naval Research, Fleet wings and squadrons. I see many of you here today and I am truly grateful for the support and the friendship of each of you.”

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160330-N-OY799-227 NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER, Md. (March 30, 2016) - - Capt. Tony Rossi, new commanding officer of Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft Program Office (PMA) 290, addresses the audience during the change of command ceremony held at Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 20 hangar. Capt. Tony Rossi relieved Capt. Scott Dillon as the program manager for Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft commanding officer. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kenneth Abbate/Released)